

FROM MISSOURI.

St. Louis, Dec. 1, 1861.

Most of the gun-boat hulls here have made a successful trip to Cairo to receive their armament, and it will not be surprising if the whole grand flotilla has its Christmas dinner in that port or at some point lower down the Mississippi. When Commodore Foote and Gen. Halleck start for New-Orleans you may expect some interesting items from the West.

## THE NAVAL SKIRMISH.

**FROM PHILADELPHIA.**

comes up a army from the timid, the wavering, the selfish, and the yet unconverted, asking what the North is to do with 4,000,000 of negroes that suddenly emancipated. Short-sighted mortals! Faithless, ignorant unbelievers! Is the divine arm, which may be lengthened to liberate, to be thereforwa so shortened as to permit his helpless ones to perish? Then the North. These border idiots talk as if emancipation at the South were to be synonymous with a wholesale emigration to the North. Such an idea is the baldest fallacy of the day. What we are to do with them is a question of which the North need take no such feverish heed. The blacks will not come here. If they come now, it is only to escape from bondage. Strike down Slavery, and they remain content and happy where they were born. Ask any fugitive among us, or any chattel emancipated by his owner, or whose freedom has been purchased by himself, and he will say that the moment Slavery is abolished he will gladly prefer returning to his native climate. Their testimony on this point is unanimous. They fly, not from the South, but from Slavery. Canada is losing her black population by voluntary removal to St. Domingo, because there they find the climate to which they have been accustomed. Other former chattels, scattered through the Middle States, are emigrating to the same region from the same inducement. Assume them of freedom, and those in the South will there remain, as certainly as that the others are going thither. The alarm on this subject is childish. It is the freedom of the North which has overrun us with negroes. Make that freedom universal, and the North will be shorn of its attractions. History proves that wherever emancipa-

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM CHARLES-

The steamer Isabel is now thoroughly fitted up, loaded with near 1,000 bales of cotton, and lies in Ashley River ready to run the blockade at the first opportunity, and the schooner Prince of Wales is being fitted out for the same purpose. It is positively something more than a blockade runner, it is a blockade breaker.

As to the Confederate forces on the coast of South Carolina, there are three regiments from North Carolina, the 1st, 2d and 3d, and the 1st and 2d South Carolina Regiments on the Railroad toward Savannah, mainly at Coosawhatchie. With the Georgia troops, there are in all about 12,000 men within easy reach of Beaufort and of Hilton Head Island, and the 1st and 2d South Carolina regiments, numbering 13 regiments, are still in Virginia.

At Charleston there is Col. Orr's regiment on Sullivan's Island, near 1,500 strong; the fourth brigade, 1,600 strong, and the reserve, only day in the city, and the 1st and 2d South Carolina regiments, about 400 years of age. The Battalion of regulars, about 400 strong, is also on Sullivan's Island; making if not about 5,000 available for the defense of Charleston.

In the Ports, Maurice and Sumter, there are in addition to the regulars, 1,000 men.

RECEPTION OF COMMODORE WILKES

THE HON. DAVID RUSSELL of Salem, Washington County, this State, died on the 24th ult., in the 81st year of his age. Mr. Russell was a lawyer of considerable ability, a rival of the Hon. John Cramer, when both were young men. At the time of his death he was the oldest member of the bar in Washington County, having commenced the practice of the law in 1835. He has filled the office of United States District-Attorney for the Northern section of the State, member of Assembly, and Congressman. The latter office he held for two terms—in the XXIVth and XXVth Congress. The deceased was as much beloved for his private virtues as he was respected for his fidelity and ability in his public capacity.

—At the Investiture of the Order of the Star of India, the extra Knights (the Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales) only wore the mantle of the Order. The ordinary Knights will therefore wear the mantles at the next Investiture, when Lord Combermere and Sir James Outram will be made. The mantles of the Knights, both extra and ordinary, are shorter than that of the Queen. Each Knight on his Investiture signs a declaration or obligation to observe the statutes of the Order. The letters patent

—An unfortunate scribe recently consented to the localizing for *The Dubuque Herald* during the absence of the regular city editor. In the course of a fortnight he threw up his situation in disgust, stating as a reason, that in his brief experience he had laid the foundation for thirteen quarrels, several of which were already serious fighting matters. A number of enemies had already been presented to him. He was probably veridical enough to inaugurate his editorial career by telling the truth about the people. He could not have made a more serious mistake.